

**CLAIMS:**

1. A network-based system for managing a business organization, the business organization having performance information stored electronically in a storage device, wherein the performance information includes at least current year, past year and plan information, said system comprising;

3        a host computer having a database associated therewith, said database  
6        storing the performance information for the business organization; and

9        a remote computer, capable of accessing the host computer through a network, said remote computer operating browser software for interacting with said host computer,

12        wherein the host computer dynamically processes the performance information in response to requests received from said remote computer, and produces performance information as a browser-displayable data file that includes at least one graphical representation of the performance information in accordance with a selection specified by the remote computer.

12        2. The system of claim 1, wherein said graphical representation of the performance information includes a gas-gauge representation of the performance information.

3        3. The system of claim 2, wherein said gas-gauge representation of the performance information includes an indication of current performance relative to a prior period and plan for the current period.

3        4. The system of claim 1, wherein said graphical representation includes an indication of current performance relative to a prior period and plan for the current period.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein said graphical representation includes a plurality of gas-gauge representations of different performance information so that  
3 the browser-displayable file, when displayed, provides the appearance of a performance dashboard.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein said graphical representation of the performance information includes a vertical bar graph.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein said vertical bar graph includes an indication of current performance relative to a prior period and a plan for the current  
3 period.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein said graphical representation of the performance information includes a color-coded indicator.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein said remote computer interfaces to the host computer via a wireless communications network.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein said graphical representation of the performance information includes a project status indicator, and where said indicator  
3 further includes an indication of the status of a project against a deliverable, an indication of the status of the project against a milestone, and an indication of the status of the project against a resource plan.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein said system further includes a project status monitor, and where said monitor is capable of initiating a polling process at a  
3 project milestone and automatically completing a qualitative assessment of project status against a deliverable.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein said host system database includes:  
a client account profile database; and  
a client database.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein said client database includes:  
a client name field;  
an update frequency field; and  
a relation to a business rules directory.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein said performance information includes sales volume information, profit information, cash flow information.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein said performance information further includes service level information.

16. The system of claim 1, wherein said system further includes a database for receiving user action plans related to the performance information.

17. The system of claim 1, wherein said system further includes a database for receiving user comments related to the performance information.

18. An automated method for monitoring the performance of a business organization, the business organization having performance information stored electronically in a storage device, where the performance information includes current year, past year and plan information, the method comprising the steps of:

3 automatically uploading the performance information to a database provided at a remote location via a network;

6 computing, from the performance information uploaded to the database, information indicative of the performance of at least one aspect of the business organization; and

9 generating graphical reports summarizing the performance of at least one aspect of the business organization for display on a browser.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said graphical reports include a gas-gauge representation of the performance information.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein said gas-gauge representation of the performance information includes an indication of current performance relative to a prior period and a plan for the current period.

3 21. The method of claim 18, wherein said graphical reports include an indication of current performance relative to a prior period and a plan for the current period.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein said graphical reports include a plurality of gas-gauge representations of different performance information so that the report, when displayed, provides the appearance of a performance dashboard.

23. The method of claim 18, wherein said graphical reports of the performance information include a vertical bar graph.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said vertical bar graph includes an indication of current performance relative to a prior period and plan for the current period.

25. The method of claim 18, wherein said graphical reports include at least one color-coded indicator.

26. The method of claim 18, wherein said database includes:  
3 a client account profile database; and  
a client database.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein said database includes:  
3 a client name field;  
an update frequency field; and  
a relation to a business rules directory.

28. The method of claim 18, wherein said performance information includes sales volume information, profit information, cash flow information.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said performance information further includes service level information.

30. The method of claim 18, wherein said method further includes the step of receiving, in a database, user action plans related to the performance information.

31. The method of claim 18, wherein said method further includes the step of receiving, in a database, user comments related to the performance information.

32. A system for displaying the performance of a business organization, comprising:

- 3        a computer;
- a database, accessible by the computer, for storing performance information for the business organization, wherein the performance information includes at least
- 6        current year, past year and plan information; and
- 9        a user interface, accessible via the computer, for interacting with said computer and said database wherein the computer dynamically processes the performance information stored in the database in response to a user's requests, and displays performance information including at least one graphical representation of the performance information.

33. A method for portraying the performance of a business organization, comprising the steps of:

- 3        gathering, for at least one aspect of the business organization, data indicative of the actual performance, the planned performance and performance during a prior period;
- 6        storing the data gathered in a computer memory;
- processing the data so as to produce a graphical representation of the performance data; and
- 9        creating a visually perceptible output displaying the performance information, wherein the graphical representation depicts current performance against both planned performance and performance during a prior period.

34. A method for portraying the performance of a business organization, comprising the steps of:

- 3       gathering, for at least one aspect of the business organization, data indicative of the actual performance, the planned performance and performance during a prior period;
- 6       storing the data gathered in a computer memory;
- processing the data so as to produce a graphical representation of the performance data; and
- 9       creating a visually perceptible output displaying the performance information, wherein the graphical representation depicts at least a primary and secondary graphical representation of at least one aspect of the performance data.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the primary graphical representation is a gauge.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the secondary graphical representation is a vertical bar graph having color-coded regions thereon.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the graphical representation further depicts a tertiary graphical representation of at least one aspect of the performance data.

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38. A method for portraying the performance of a business organization, comprising the steps of:

- 3       gathering performance data including data indicative of actual performance, planned performance and performance during a prior period;
- storing the performance data in a computer memory;
- 6       processing the performance data so as to produce a graphical representation of the performance data; and
- creating a visually perceptible output displaying the performance information,
- 9       wherein the graphical representation depicts the performance data over a period of time.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the graphical representation is in the form of a trend chart and includes visual indications of actual performance, planned performance and performance during a prior period.

40. The method of claim 39, further comprising the steps of:

- 3       detecting a user selection for alteration of at least one aspect of the trend chart;
- reprocessing, in response to the user selection, the performance data to produce an alternative graphical representation in the form of a revised trend chart;
- 6       and
- updating the visually perceptible output to depict the revised trend chart.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein the user selection for alteration of at least one aspect is indicated by selection from the group consisting of:

- 3       type of monthly data;
- a moving average; and
- length of time series (e.g.,)

42. The method of claim 41, wherein the user selection for type of monthly data is indicated by a selection from the group consisting of: monthly values; year-to-date values; change from prior year value; and percent change from prior year.

43. The method of claim 41, wherein the user selection of a moving average further includes selection of the time period for the number of months over which the moving average is calculated.

44. The method of claim 42, wherein the user selection for the length of time series is indicated by a selection from the group consisting of: year-to-date; last twelve months; and last three years.

45. A method for portraying the status of a project, comprising the steps of:  
3       gathering project data including a project plan having a deliverable, a milestone and a resource plan;  
5       gathering performance data indicative of performance against the project plan;  
6       storing the project data and performance data in a computer memory;  
7       processing the performance data in relation to the project data so as to produce a graphical representation of the performance against the project plan; and  
9       creating a visually perceptible output displaying the performance, wherein the graphical representation depicts the performance in at least the areas of deliverables, milestones and resources.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein the graphical representation includes a project status indicator where said indicator further includes a visual indication of the performance against a deliverable, an indication of the performance against a milestone, and an indication of the performance against a resource plan.

47. The method of claim 46, wherein the visual indication of at least one status is accomplished using a color scheme.

48. The method of claim 46, wherein the visual indication of at least one status is accomplished using an icon.

49. The method of claim 46, wherein the graphical representation further includes at least one of a group of detailed project status indicators consisting of:

3 a chart depicting project milestones and a task status with respect to a timeline;

6 a bar graph indicating the status of resources spent on the project with respect to the resource plan; and

a list of deliverables in association with notations for the status against such deliverables.

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